5. How will you share your HIV antibody status with your current, past, and future sexual partners and/or spouse? If you have shared needles how will you share your antibody status with past partners?

For public and private institutions, AIDS ACTION recommends the following steps be taken:

1. Increased numbers of staff trained in the medical, psychosocial, financial and legal implications of HIV must be available to individuals considering learning their HIV antibody status. Increased options for anonymous testing and counseling must be made available.

2. Access to affordable, on-going monitoring, medical, and social service care must be made available to all people who are HIV positive. Increased outreach must be made to disenfranchised communities who have traditionally been excluded from access to ongoing prevention programs, health maintenance, medical care, and social services.

3. Stronger local, state, and federal anti-discrimination legislation must be passed and enforced. People with HIV must have access to health insurance, housing, and employment. Without such safeguards, individuals who might benefit from earlier treatment will not seek it.

4. There must be more substance abuse treatment options available so that individuals who want to stop using drugs can do so. There must be more social services available to support the families and friends of those infected. There must be more targeted education programs so that infected and uninfected individuals can prevent the further transmission of the virus.

5. Public health providers should be available to help an individual determine the best ways to share his/her antibody status with past and present partners. Additional support and resources must be available to those who have been voluntarily notified by the infected individual. In all cases these services should be non-judgemental and non-punitive, in order to help prevent the further transmission of HIV.

In conclusion, AIDS ACTION believes that individuals in our communities have the right to accurate information and accessible, affordable, knowledgeable HIV care and services. Public and private institutions of society have the responsibility of providing adequate resources to meet these needs.

AIDS ACTION remains committed to our mission of providing support to people affected by AIDS, education to prevent the transmission of HIV, advocacy for sufficient high quality HIV-related services, and outreach to all those in need of information and care.